

**Question for written answer E-000711/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Jordi Cañas (Renew)

Subject: Strawberries with hepatitis A from Morocco

On 4 March 2024, Spanish port controls sent an alert through the Rapid Alert System for Food and Feed (RASFF) about the presence of hepatitis A in strawberries from Morocco, classifying the risk to the public health of European consumers as 'serious'. However, even though the Commission has verified the risk, it has not yet implemented any measures¹.

These strawberries could have been contaminated by irrigating crops with sewage water², going against the quality standards set by the EU Regulation on water reuse for agricultural irrigation³. This situation is another example of the repeated rule-breaking with regard to Moroccan agricultural products and their failure to comply with EU standards in the field of plant health and food safety. This not only puts European public health at risk, but also constitutes unfair competition for European farmers who do respect and comply with EU standards and regulations, thus safeguarding consumers' health.

In view of this:

How will the Commission ensure that agricultural products imported from Morocco comply with EU phytosanitary and food safety measures?

Submitted: 6.3.2024

¹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/rasff-window/screen/notification/667681>

² <https://amp.elmundo.es/economia/2024/03/05/65e74790fc6c8375238b45a6.html>

³ <https://www.boe.es/doue/2020/177/L00032-00055.pdf>